

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 8, replace the paragraph beginning on line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

--An initial calibration of the membrane 38 is then carried out by axially displacing the load transmitter 52 forwards, i.e. towards the top with respect to Figure 3, until it is in contact with a flexible portion of the external face 42 of the membrane 38 and until it applies a given initial pretensioning force F_0 .--